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Work described herein shows that T cell receptor triggering by peptide/MHC ligands activates a caspase in thymocytes, including CD4+CD8+ double positive thymocytes, resulting in their death. Methods of inhibiting apoptosis in thymocytes are described, as well as assays for identifying an agent which alters the activity of the caspase are described.

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1. *What is the purpose of the study?*
 2. *What are the research questions or hypotheses?*
 3. *What is the study design?*
 4. *What is the sample size and how was it selected?*
 5. *What are the variables being studied?*
 6. *What are the data collection methods?*
 7. *What are the results of the study?*
 8. *What are the conclusions and implications of the study?*